(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government support non-discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS in schools and at workplace. The policy laid down is that no mandatory HIV testing should be imposed as pre-condition for providing employment (except Armed Forces) school education or for providing health care. Guidelines have been issued to all State AIDS Control Societies to ensure that there is no discrimination to HIV positive patients attending Government hospitals in the State for treatment purposes.

Procurement of Tami Flu Drug

2334. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tami Flu, an anti Bird Flu drug was procured by Government from a multinational drug company to deal with human infection of Bird Flu;

(b) if so, the quantity of drugs procured, the quantity of drugs utilized for preventing human infection and the quantity of stocks still unutilized;

(c) whether any incidence of human infection was reported;

(d) if not, the rationale of Government for keeping huge stockpiling of Tami Flu procured from multinational drug company at a higher cost; and

(e) the details of the loss to the exchequer due to the purchase of anti Bird Flu drugs by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has procured 3,00,000 capsules of Tami

Flu from M/s. Roche. Another 7,00,000 capsules of Oseltamivir Phosphate (generic version of Tami Flu) have been procured from Hetero Drugs, an Indian Pharmaceutical Company. World Health Organization supplied 20,000 capsules from its stockpile. For chemoprophylaxis of high risk personnel and treatment of suspected cases, a total of 65,650 capsules have been utilized during the outbreak of Avian Influenza in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. A balance of 9,54,350 capsules is available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that countries with the resources to do so should stockpile Oseltamivir as a measure for influenza pandemic preparedness and for preventing/managing human cases of avian influenza [H5N1]. WHO itself is maintaining 30 million capsules of Oseltamivir [Tami Flu] as global stockpile.

After review of the global spread of the Avian Influenza and risk assessment, Government of India took a decision to stockpile one million capsules of Oseltamivir. M/s. Roche have supplied the drug at a special concessional price. Stockpiling of this drug is necessary for chemoprophylaxis of contacts of cases and personnel involved in culling, clean up, rapid response, surveillance, who are all categorized as high risk personnel. The drug is also required for treatment of human cases of Avian Influenza and pandemic influenza. The available stock may have to be utilized if a need arises to contain outbreaks in future. This drug has a self life of 3 to 5 years.

(e) In view of (d) above, question does not arise.

Monitoring of epidemic outbreak

2335. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government define an epidemic;

(b) the details of number of epidemic outbreaks in last five years alongwith annual fatalities in epidemics, year-wise;